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First name: Shirlee

Last name: Jack

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Today I write to support the No-Action Alternative for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed Alaska Roadless Rule, Alternative #1. I support keeping the current Roadless Rule protections in place and intact for the Tongass National Forest. Indigenous peoples' rights must be protected as well. Alaskan Native communities - including the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples - have depended on the Tongass Rainforest for millennia. It is the backbone to their culture, traditions, and communities -- we cannot sacrifice their way of life for corporate private short term profit.

The Tongass contains some of the largest intact old-growth temperate rainforest in the world. Its value in providing clean water for fish and wildlife habitat is essential to the economic and ecological health of Southeast Alaska. I urge you to keep the federal Roadless Rule intact and current protections in place for national forests in Alaska.

I strongly object to any and all plans to reduce or remove protections from our national forests roadless areas. The Roadless Rule is one of the most important land management policies the Federal Government has adopted. Not only does it preserve some of Americas best fish and wildlife habitat, but also it saves many millions of taxpayer dollars that might otherwise be spent to subsidize timber sales. The value of the Roadless Rule in preventing environmentally damaging and economically wasteful road-building and logging is particularly relevant in the Tongass, where logging costs vastly exceed timber revenues and require huge taxpayer subsidies. Subsidizing removal of environmentally invaluable forests would be insane at any time. However at this pivotal time of extreme need for drawing carbon from the atmosphere and sequestering it into soil, allowing further logging and forest degradation will accelerate the increase of carbon levels in the air, thereby raising global temperatures and contributing to further melting of permafrost and ice. We must use our resources, including tax dollars, to preserve and increase forested lands rather than paying for corporations to access and degrade the integrity of forests, one of the most valuable insurance policies our descendants have.

Regards, Shirlee Jack

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